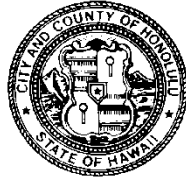


**ETHICS COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD, SUITE 190 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817
PHONE: (808) 768-9242 • FAX: (808) 768-7768 • EMAIL: ethics@honolulu.gov • INTERNET: www.honolulu.gov/ethics

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



JAN K. YAMANE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AND LEGAL COUNSEL

**ETHICS COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

Date and Place: April 15, 2020
Webex Meeting Number (Access Code): 263 358 543
Meeting Password: 7TiM4QxSpN7 (78464797 from phones and video systems) or Join by phone 1-408-418-9388

Present: Hon. Victoria Marks (ret.), Chair
David B. Monk, Vice Chair

Peter S. Adler, Commissioner
Hon. Riki Amano (ret.), Commissioner
Lynette Lo Kanda, Commissioner
Michael A. Lilly, Esq., Commissioner
Hon. Allene R. Suemori (ret.), Commissioner

Jan K. Yamane, Executive Director and Legal Counsel (EDLC)
Laurie Wong-Nowinski, Associate Legal Counsel (ALC)
Janice K. Yonamine, Investigator (INV)
Alyson N. Wong, Legal Clerk III (LCIII)
Joanne O.N. Lim, Sr. Clerk (Sr. CLK)
Kristie E.L. Kato, Sr. Clerk (Sr. CLK)

Moana Yost, Deputy Corporation Counsel,
Department of the Corporation Counsel (COR)

Sandy Ma, Executive Director, Common Cause

MINUTES OF THE ETHICS COMMISSION MEETING

I. Call to Order, Public Notice, Quorum

Chair Marks called the meeting to order at approximately 11:33 a.m., declaring quorum with all Commissioners present via Webex.

II. New Business

A. Chair's Report

1. For Action: Approval of Open Session Minutes of February 19, 2020
Commissioner Adler made and Commissioner Kanda seconded a motion to approve the open session minutes of February 19, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Legislation

1. For Discussion and Action: Resolution 20-083 Initiating Amendments to the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu 1973 (2017 Edition), As Amended, Relating to Ethics Commission Staff

EDLC Yamane stated that the City Council is having its full Council meeting at the same time as this Commission meeting and this matter is on the Council's agenda. She further stated that she submitted testimony explaining that the Commission is meeting today to discuss whether to take a position on this matter.

Chair Marks discussed the pros and cons of the resolution. The pro is that it will be easier to hire staff. The con is that staff is not entitled to automatic pay raises that civil service employees receive under collective bargaining agreements.

Commissioner Kanda asked if other agencies have done this before as she was concerned if the Council would view this negatively.

Chair Marks referred to Resolution 19-331, regarding a proposed Charter amendment to allow the Commission's budget independence. She explained that the goal with both of these resolutions is to gain independence and flexibility to create and hire staff positions the Commission needs and to provide raises to staff. She and Executive Director Yamane have worked on trying to create the Assistant Executive Director position, which received funding last year; they are also unable to create other needed staff positions because of classification plan restrictions.

Chair Marks asked for testimony. Ms. Sandy Ma identified herself as the Executive Director of Common Cause and stated that Common Cause takes no position on this issue. She further stated that there are others in the community who are concerned that taking the ethics staff out of the classification plan will leave them exposed to political persuasion and without collective bargaining protections.

EDLC Yamane responded that all staff positions are already exempt from civil service and that this resolution takes them out of the classification plan, similar to what was done for the staff attorney position several years ago to allow more flexibility.

Vice Chair Monk moved and Commissioner Amano seconded a motion to support and testify at Council on Resolution 20-083. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Adjournment

At approximately 12:13 p.m., Commissioner Suemori made and Vice Chair Monk seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.